



# Polygonal Meshes

Adam Finkelstein & Tim Weyrich  
Princeton University  
COS 426, Spring 2008



# 3D Object Representations

## Points

- o Range image
- o Point cloud

## Solids

- o Voxels
- o BSP tree
- o CSG
- o Sweep

## Surfaces

- o Polygonal mesh
- o Subdivision
- o Parametric
- o Implicit

## High-level structures

- o Scene graph
- o Application specific



# 3D Object Representations

## Points

- o Range image
- o Point cloud

## Solids

- o Voxels
- o BSP tree
- o CSG
- o Sweep

## Surfaces

- Polygonal mesh
- o Subdivision
- o Parametric
- o Implicit

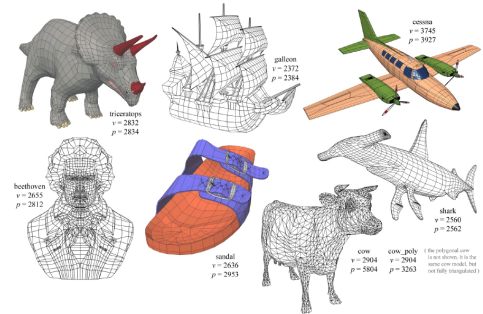
## High-level structures

- o Scene graph
- o Application specific



# 3D Polygonal Mesh

Set of polygons representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D

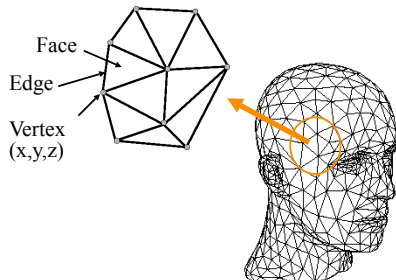


Isenberg



# 3D Polygonal Mesh

Geometry & topology



Zorin & Schroeder



# Geometry background

Scene is usually approximated by 3D primitives

- o Point
- o Vector
- o Line segment
- o Ray
- o Line
- o Plane
- o Polygon

### 3D Point



Specifies a location

- o Represented by three coordinates
- o Infinitely small

```
typedef struct {  
    Coordinate x;  
    Coordinate y;  
    Coordinate z;  
} Point;
```

(x,y,z)



7

### 3D Vector



Specifies a direction and a magnitude

- o Represented by three coordinates
- o Magnitude  $\|V\| = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2}$
- o Has no location

```
typedef struct {  
    Coordinate dx;  
    Coordinate dy;  
    Coordinate dz;  
} Vector;
```

(dx,dy,dz)



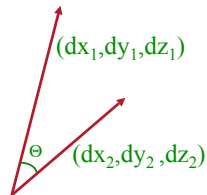
8

### 3D Vector



Dot product of two 3D vectors

- o  $V_1 \cdot V_2 = \|V_1\| \|V_2\| \cos(\theta)$



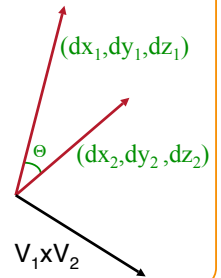
9

### 3D Vector



Cross product of two 3D vectors

- o  $V_1 \times V_2 = (dy_1 dx_2 - dz_1 dy_2, dz_1 dx_2 - dx_1 dz_2, dx_1 dy_2 - dy_1 dx_2)$
- o  $V_1 \times V_2 =$  vector perpendicular to both  $V_1$  and  $V_2$
- o  $\|V_1 \times V_2\| = \|V_1\| \|V_2\| \sin(\theta)$



10

### 3D Line Segment



Linear path between two points

- o Parametric representation:  
»  $P = P_1 + t(P_2 - P_1), (0 \leq t \leq 1)$

```
typedef struct {  
    Point P1;  
    Point P2;  
} Segment;
```



11

### 3D Ray



Line segment with one endpoint at infinity

- o Parametric representation:  
»  $P = P_1 + tV, (0 \leq t < \infty)$

```
typedef struct {  
    Point P1;  
    Vector V;  
} Ray;
```



12

### 3D Line

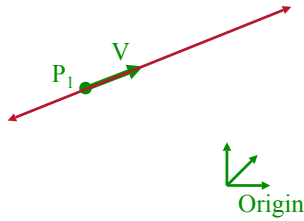


Line segment with both endpoints at infinity

o Parametric representation:

»  $P = P_1 + tV, (-\infty < t < \infty)$

```
typedef struct {
    Point P1;
    Vector V;
} Line;
```

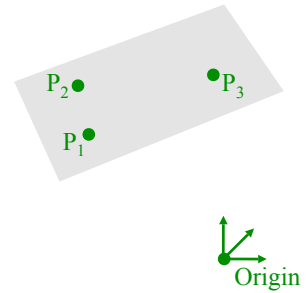


13

### 3D Plane



A linear combination of three points



14

### 3D Plane

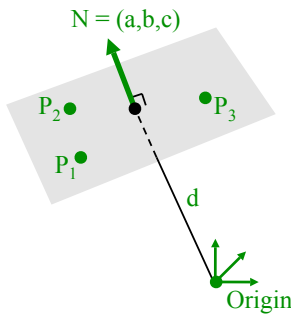


A linear combination of three points

o Implicit representation:

»  $P \cdot N + d = 0$ , or  
 »  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$

```
typedef struct {
    Vector N;
    Distance d;
} Plane;
```



o N is the plane "normal"  
 » Unit-length vector  
 » Perpendicular to plane

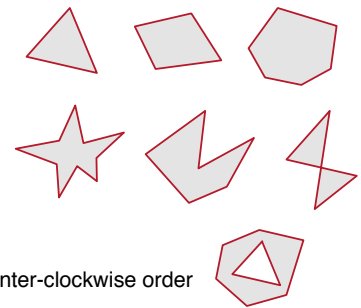
15

### 3D Polygon



Set of points "inside" a sequence of coplanar points

```
typedef struct {
    Point *points;
    int npoints;
} Polygon;
```



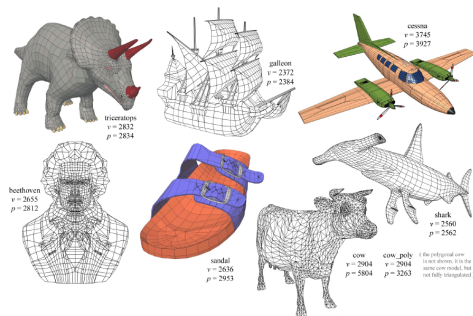
Points are in counter-clockwise order

16

### 3D Polygonal Mesh



Set of polygons representing a 2D surface embedded in 3D



Isenberg

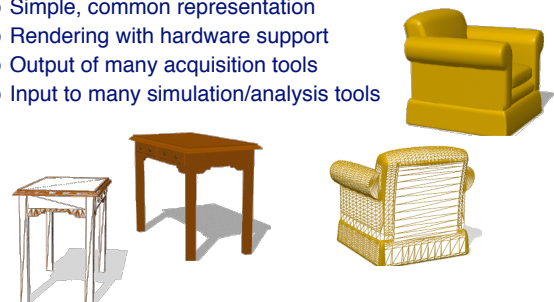
17

### 3D Polygonal Meshes



Why are they of interest?

- o Simple, common representation
- o Rendering with hardware support
- o Output of many acquisition tools
- o Input to many simulation/analysis tools



Viewpoint

18

## 3D Polygonal Meshes



### Properties

- + Efficient display
- + Easy acquisition
- Accurate
- Concise
- Intuitive editing
- Efficient editing
- Efficient intersections
- Guaranteed validity
- Guaranteed smoothness
- etc.



NVIDIA 9600 GT GPU

19

## Outline



- Acquisition ←
- Processing
- Representation

20

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats

### Scanners

- o Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

### Simulations

- o Physical processes

21

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

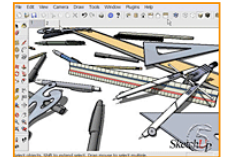
- Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats

### Scanners

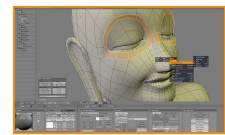
- o Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

### Simulations

- o Physical processes



Sketchup



Blender

22

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- Interchange formats

### Scanners

- o Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc.

### Simulations

- o Physical processes



Jose Maria De Espona

23

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

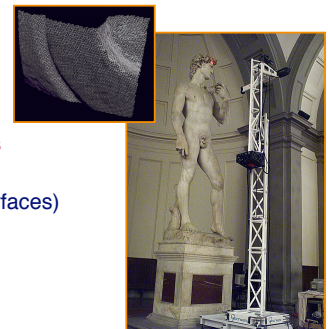
- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats

### Scanners

- Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

### Simulations

- o Physical processes



Digital Michelangelo Project  
Stanford

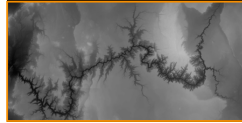
24

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



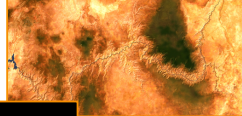
### Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats



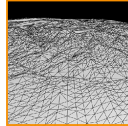
### Scanners

- o Laser range scanners
- Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)



### Simulations

- o Physical processes



Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

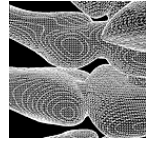
25

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



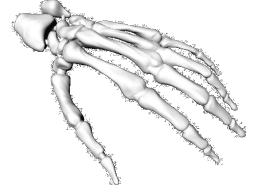
### Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats



### Scanners

- o Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)



### Simulations

- o Physical processes

Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

26

## Polygonal Mesh Acquisition



### Interactive modeling

- o Polygon editors
- o Interchange formats



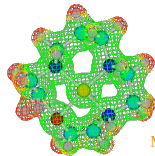
SGI

### Scanners

- o Laser range scanners
- o Geological survey
- o CAT, MRI, etc. (isosurfaces)

### Simulations

- Physical processes



MIT

27

## Outline



### Acquisition

Processing ←

Representation

28

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature

29

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

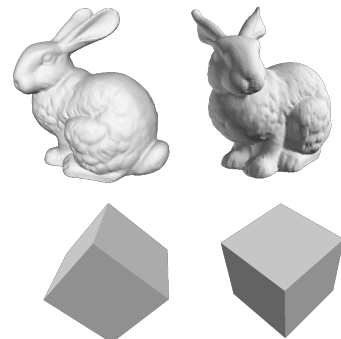
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



30

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

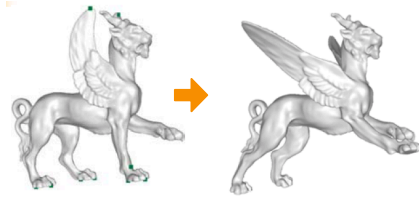
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Sheffer

31

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

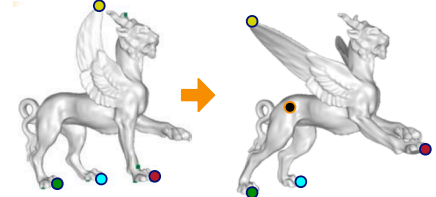
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Sheffer

32

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

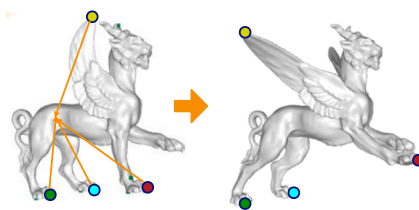
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Sheffer

33

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

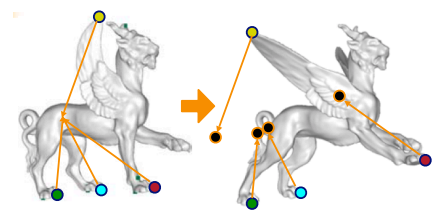
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Sheffer

34

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

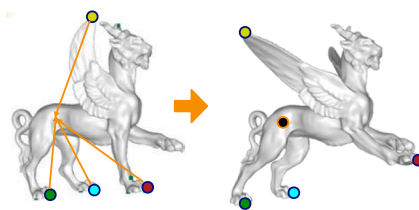
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Sheffer

35

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

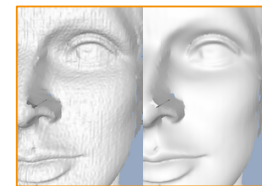
- o Rotate
- o Deform

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Thouis "Ray" Jones

Weighted Average of Neighbor Vertices



Olga Sorkine

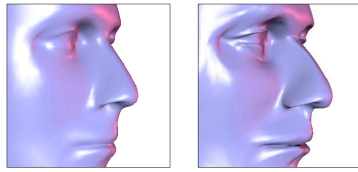
36

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform



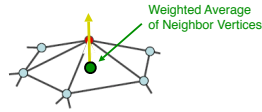
Desbrun

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o **Sharpen**
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Olga Sorkine

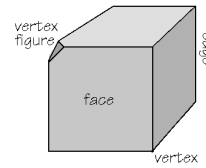
37

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform

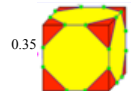
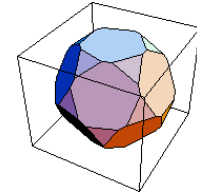


### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o **Truncate**
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Conway

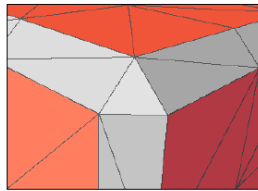
38

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform



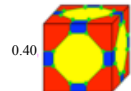
Jarek Rossignac

### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o **Bevel**

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o Curvature



Conway

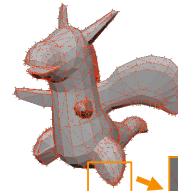
39

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform

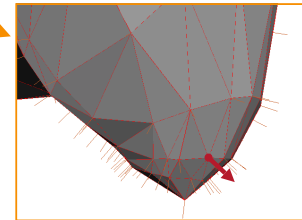


### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o **Normals**
- o Curvature



40

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Warps

- o Rotate
- o Deform



### Filters

- o Smooth
- o Sharpen
- o Truncate
- o Bevel

### Analysis

- o Normals
- o **Curvature**

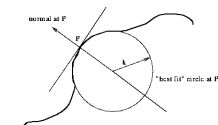


Figure 22: curvature of curve at  $P$  is  $1/k$

Szymon Rusinkiewicz

41

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify

### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

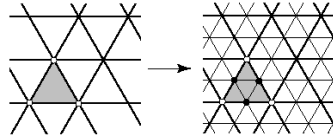
42

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



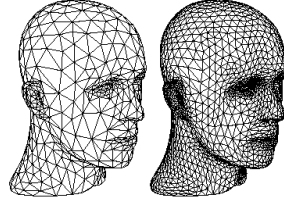
### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections



### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

Zorin & Schroeder

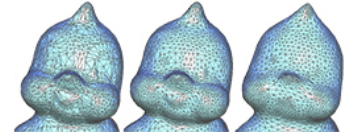
43

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



Original

Resampled

### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

Sorkine

44

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

Garland

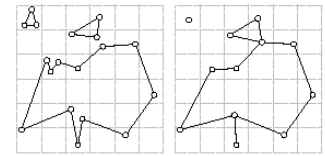
45

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



Before After  
Vertex Clustering

### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

Rossignac

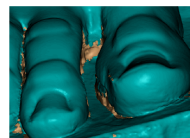
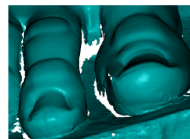
46

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract

Podolak

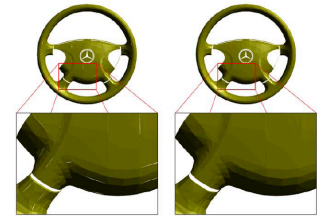
47

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify

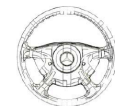


### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



Borodin

48

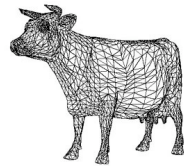


## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify

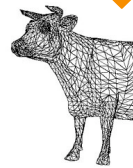


### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



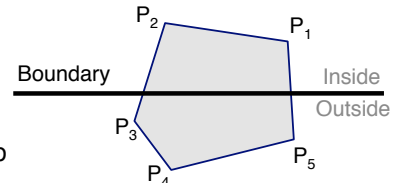
49

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



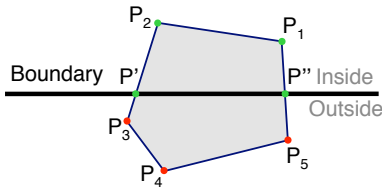
50

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify

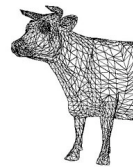


### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



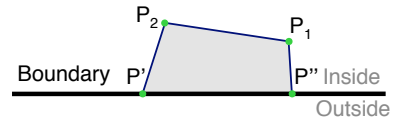
51

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify



### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



52

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Remeshing

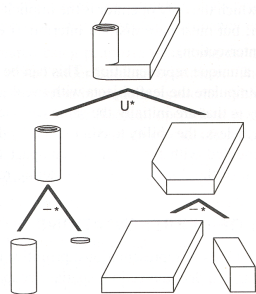
- o Subdivide
- o Resample
- o Simplify

### Topological fixup

- o Fill holes
- o Fix cracks
- o Fix self-intersections

### Boolean operations

- o Crop
- o Subtract



FvDFH Figure 12.27

53

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



### Procedural generation

- o Surface of revolution
- o Sweep
- o Fractalize

54

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- o Surface of revolution
- o Sweep
- o Fractalize



Blinn

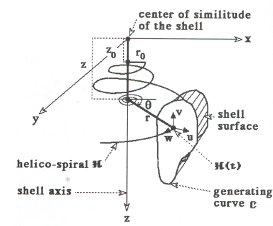
55

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- o Surface of revolution
- Sweep
- o Fractalize



Fowler



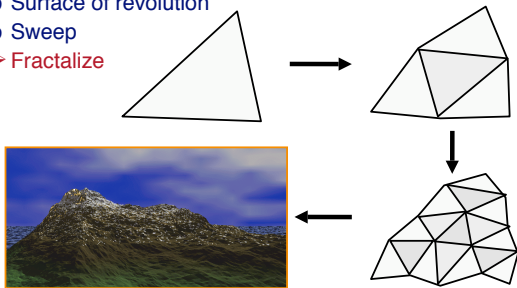
56

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Procedural generation

- o Surface of revolution
- o Sweep
- Fractalize



Dirk Balfanz, Igor Guskov,  
Sanjeev Kumar, & Rudro Samanta,

57

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex

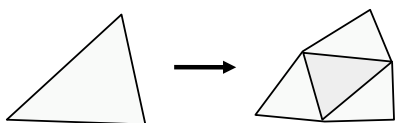
58

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex



Subdivide face

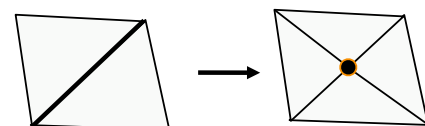
59

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex



Subdivide edge

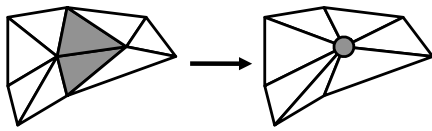
60

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex



Collapse edge

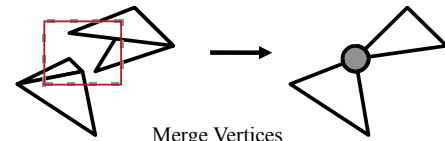
61

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex



Merge Vertices

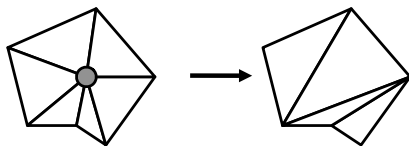
62

## Polygonal Mesh Processing



Most operations use a few low-level operations:

- o Subdivide face
- o Subdivide edge
- o Collapse edge
- o Merge vertices
- o Remove vertex



Remove Vertex

63

## Outline



Acquisition

Processing

Representation ←

64

## Polygon Mesh Representation

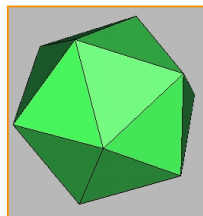


Data structures determine algorithms

- o Data structure must support key operations of algorithm efficiently

Examples:

- o Drawing a mesh
- o Removing a vertex
- o Smoothing a region
- o Intersecting polyhedra



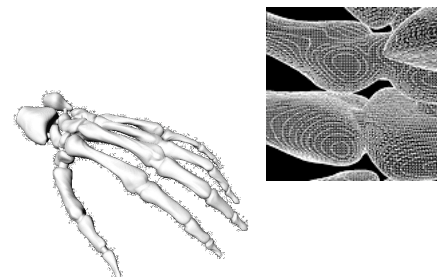
Different data structures for different algorithms

65

## Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?



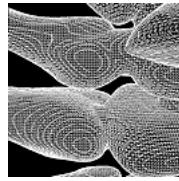
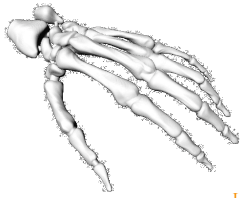
66

## Polygon Mesh Representation



Important properties of mesh representation?

- o Efficient traversal of topology
- o Efficient use of memory
- o Efficient updates



Large Geometric Model Repository  
Georgia Tech

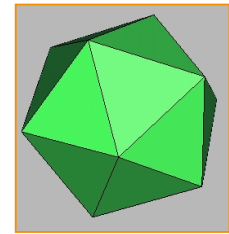
67

## Polygon Mesh Representation



Possible data structures

- o List of independent faces
- o Vertex and face tables
- o Adjacency lists
- o Winged edge
- o Half edge
- o etc.



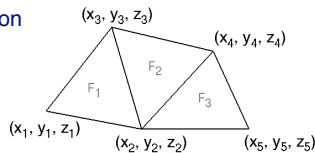
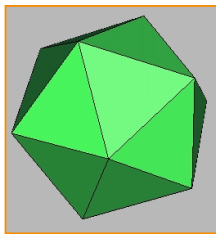
68

## Independent Faces



Each face lists vertex coordinates

- o Redundant vertices
- o No adjacency information



FACE TABLE			
F <sub>1</sub>	(x <sub>1</sub> , y <sub>1</sub> , z <sub>1</sub> )	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>3</sub> , y <sub>3</sub> , z <sub>3</sub> )
F <sub>2</sub>	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>4</sub> , y <sub>4</sub> , z <sub>4</sub> )	(x <sub>3</sub> , y <sub>3</sub> , z <sub>3</sub> )
F <sub>3</sub>	(x <sub>2</sub> , y <sub>2</sub> , z <sub>2</sub> )	(x <sub>5</sub> , y <sub>5</sub> , z <sub>5</sub> )	(x <sub>4</sub> , y <sub>4</sub> , z <sub>4</sub> )

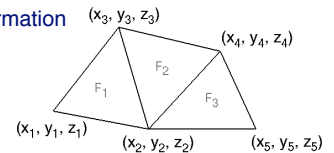
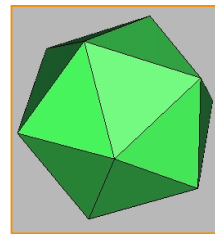
69

## Vertex and Face Tables



Each face lists vertex references

- o Shared vertices
- o Still no adjacency information



VERTEX TABLE			
V <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>1</sub>	Z <sub>1</sub>
V <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	Y <sub>2</sub>	Z <sub>2</sub>
V <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	Y <sub>3</sub>	Z <sub>3</sub>
V <sub>4</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	Z <sub>4</sub>
V <sub>5</sub>	X <sub>5</sub>	Y <sub>5</sub>	Z <sub>5</sub>

FACE TABLE			
F <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>
F <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>
F <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>

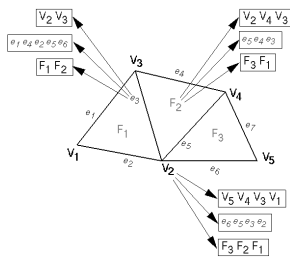
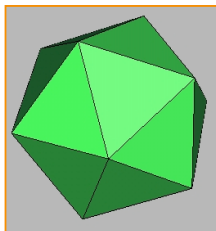
70

## Adjacency Lists



Store all vertex, edge, and face adjacencies

- o Efficient adjacency traversal
- o Extra storage

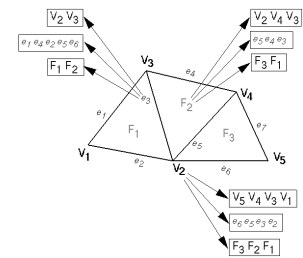
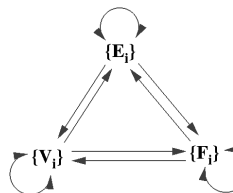


71

## Partial Adjacency Lists



Can we store only some adjacency relationships and derive others?



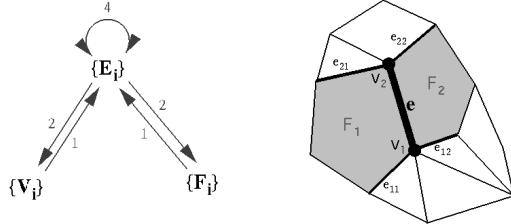
72

## Winged Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

- o All adjacencies in  $O(1)$  time
- o Little extra storage (fixed records)
- o Arbitrary polygons

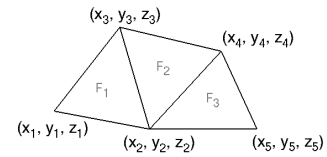


73

## Winged Edge



Example:



VERTEX TABLE				
V <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>1</sub>	Z <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>1</sub>
V <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	Y <sub>2</sub>	Z <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>6</sub>
V <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	Y <sub>3</sub>	Z <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>3</sub>
V <sub>4</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	Z <sub>4</sub>	e <sub>5</sub>
V <sub>5</sub>	X <sub>5</sub>	Y <sub>5</sub>	Z <sub>5</sub>	e <sub>6</sub>

EDGE TABLE				
e <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>4</sub> e <sub>3</sub>
e <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>1</sub> e <sub>1</sub> e <sub>3</sub> e <sub>6</sub>
e <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>5</sub> e <sub>1</sub> e <sub>4</sub>
e <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>3</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>1</sub> e <sub>3</sub> e <sub>7</sub> e <sub>5</sub>
e <sub>5</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>3</sub> e <sub>6</sub> e <sub>4</sub> e <sub>7</sub>
e <sub>6</sub>	V <sub>2</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>5</sub> e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>7</sub> e <sub>7</sub>
e <sub>7</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	V <sub>5</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>4</sub> e <sub>5</sub> e <sub>6</sub> e <sub>6</sub>

FACE TABLE	
F <sub>1</sub>	e <sub>1</sub>
F <sub>2</sub>	e <sub>3</sub>
F <sub>3</sub>	e <sub>5</sub>

74

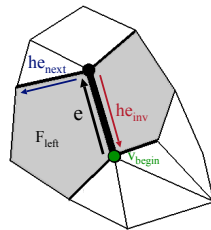
## Half Edge



Adjacency encoded in edges

- o All adjacencies in  $O(1)$  time
- o Little extra storage (fixed records)
- o Arbitrary polygons

Similar to winged-edge, except adjacency encoded in half-edges



75

## Simple Triangle Mesh

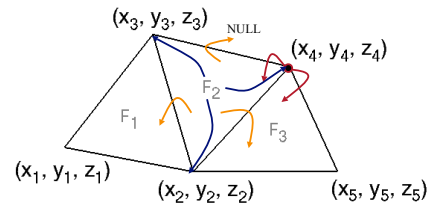


Do not store edges at all

- o All faces have 3 vertices and 3 neighbors

Store adjacency in vertices and faces

- o For each face: 3 vertices and 3 faces
- o For each vertex: N faces



76

## Summary



Polygonal meshes

- o Easy acquisition
- o Fast rendering

Processing operations

- o Must consider irregular vertex sampling
- o Must handle/avoid topological degeneracies

Representation

- o Which adjacency relationships to store depend on which operations must be efficient

77